

## NEW PUBLICATIONS.

MICHLANOUS AND POSTHUMOUS WORKS OF HENRY THOMAS BUCKLE. *Editorial and Biographical Notice* by HALEY TAYLOR. 3 vols. Pp. Boston, L. & C. Co.

The most remarkable feature of these posthumous volumes is their singular lack of editorial ability, and their want of adaptation for popular reading. They consist of a reprint of the miscellaneous works published by Mr. Buckle during his lifetime, including his admirable discourse on the "Influence of Women on Knowledge," a review of Mill on "Liberty," and a brief defense of this review under the title of "A Letter to a Gentleman on Pooley's Case." The new matter, which fills the second and third volumes, comprises the contents of the author's "Common Place Books," which have been reprinted precisely as he left them, with the exception of a few articles that have been omitted on account of their subjects. A collection of historical "Fragments," which appeared in "Fraser's Magazine," about five years after Mr. Buckle's death, has been added to the edition. The work thus presents a complete exhibition of the literary remains of the author, showing the vast accumulation of materials for his great work, the wide extent of reading and study which it involved, and the deep and strong foundation that was prepared for the superstructure. No attempt has been made by the editor to reduce this vast mass of disjointed matter to even the semblance of order. Of Eastern languages he was professedly versed. The best passage of the great prose writers were impressed on his memory. He would quote page after page with the same ease that others quote himself. Poetry itself was wont to say, "it stamps itself upon the brain." All that was grandest in English poetry, indeed, had become a part of his mind. Shakespeare first, Massinger, and Beaumont and Fletcher, were as familiar to him as the Bible. Mr. Buckle had great difficulty in acquiring a foreign pronunciation. He spoke French fluently, but with an inimitable accent. His failure in Dutch, after he hoped that he was rather successful, was signal. Traveling one day by rail in Holland, he ventured to try his powers of conversation with a gentleman who after a time remarked that he was sorry he did not understand Italian. Whatever the subject of his study, it was as a part of the history of human development that it challenged his interest. All the great masters of method, from Aristotle, Bacon, and Descartes, to Comte and Mill, had engaged his attention. His personal habits were arranged with a view to the accomplishment of study, and the preservation of his health. Every hour was systematically disposed of, whether for work, or exercise, or relaxation. He walked every morning for a quarter of an hour only before breakfast. He could not work till he had been in the air. Heat or cold, rain or shine, made no difference in his morning stroll or his afternoon walk. Each had its appointed time and length, and neither was curtailed for business or visits. He used to say that he did not know the sensation of mental fatigue. But previous illness had left its warning, and he dared not overtask his brain. He worked with his watch on the table, and always stopped when the hour came. After his walk he read till dinner time, and retiring early in the evening, he read again for a short time, though not far into the night, for he required many hours' rest, and was a good sleeper. He was fond of smoking, and indeed was so great a slave to it that he could neither ride, nor write, nor talk, without his three cigars a day. It was too great an effort for him to smoke while walking, and he never went to stay in any house where smoking indoors was objected to, being too good a Christian to smoke on other people's premises without their leave. The influence of his mother led him to value the mental sympathy and companionship of women. He had a keen appreciation of what their peculiar intellectual qualities do for society. His extreme gentleness combined with power, made him a favorite.—After the publication of his second volume (May, 1851), his health gave way to so great a degree that he determined to lay aside all literary work for a time, and try the effect of a winter in Egypt and Syria. He left England toward the end of October, and early in November wrote from Alexandria, "I feel better health and spirits than at any time during the last three years. Especially I am conscious of an immense increase of brain power, grasping great problems with firmness which at one time I feared had gone from me forever. I feel that there is yet much that I shall live to do." On returning from his voyage on the Nile, he reached Jerusalem, April 13, 1852, where he spent eleven days, and three days after commencing his journey to Beyrouth, he was attacked at Nazareth with the first symptoms of the fever which finally terminated his life at Danvers, Mass., January 21, 1858. The story of Mr. Buckle still remains to be written. The contents of these volumes throw but a faint light on his personal history, which in the hands of a competent writer would afford a theme for an important and valuable work.

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